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23 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: OSA Position Regarding the Undersigned Draft
NRO Paper. FY-1973 Financial Program,
FY-1974 Budget, and FY-1975 thru 1978 Planning

REFERENCE: Draft NRO Memorandum dated 10 March 1972;
Subject: Same as above (BYE 12677-72)

1. The referenced draft NRO Memorandum was provided to OSA for comments, suggestions, etc., prior to its becoming an official policy paper of the NRO. There are in this paper three main issues on which we wish to comment and establish what we believe to be the best Agency position; i. e.,

a. ISSUE NUMBER I:

This NRO paper establishes that for FY-74 the Air Force would assume responsibility for budget, funding, contracting, and supply support for SENIOR YEAR and IDEALIST/SENIOR YEAR.

OSA POSITION:

The funding, contracting, etc., by the Air Force of these accounts will not affect our operation of the IDEALIST Program, with the proviso that arrangements and agreements can be reached to insure that IDEALIST Peculiar and Agency needs covered by the IDEALIST Common, are not subject to Air Force budgetary manipulation and constraints. This will, in effect, increase our IDEALIST Peculiar Account and at the same time equitably reduce the IDEALIST Common Account for 1974 and on. Therefore, subject to the aforementioned agreement, we generally concur on this issue of the NRO paper.

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b. ISSUE NUMBER II:

The next issue of the NRO paper is that of the division of S. P. O. responsibility between the Air Force and OSA.

OSA POSITION:

With the initiation of the original U-2R procurement, the DNRO specifically stipulated at that time that there would be one S. P. O. -- OSA, and that it was to be this S. P. O.'s responsibility to maintain the limited number of U-2R's in a standard configuration, useable and totally interchangeable for both SENIOR YEAR and IDEALIST Missions. However, in spite of this guidance, the changing situations and missions of the two organizations have recently affected many different and noncompatible U-2R configurations. In effect, it has now become an exceedingly costly and time consuming process to reconfigure an IDEALIST aircraft for SENIOR YEAR and vice versa. Because of the obvious trend towards widely diverging missions, it appears that the creation of two S. P. O.'s in FY-74 is an approach that would maintain configuration integrity compatible with specific mission goals. Full realization by all parties would have to be achieved that interchange of articles would not be possible in the future and reduced flexibility of these limited resources will exist.

c. ISSUE NUMBER III:

The third issue of the NRO paper is the apparent decision to limit the CIA U-2R Fleet to four aircraft starting in FY-73.

OSA POSITION:

This decision appears to be incongruous with the other two issues, as it is incompatible with the IDEALIST Mission. While, and because, we have essentially agreed with the other two issues (with certain stipulations) we must take exception with the four

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aircraft CIA fleet part of this paper. As we have previously stated, the Agency needs a minimum of five equally configured U-2R's to accomplish its total mission, but with a split fleet of this type and number, there would be no way that the IDEALIST Program could borrow a SENIOR YEAR aircraft for use on its type of missions. However, if the Agency fleet were to be maintained at the five level, then it would be possible for us to provide aircraft to the SENIOR YEAR Program on a loan basis. This loan, of course, would have to be for short, specified periods and when there is low level of effort and/or requirements in the IDEALIST Program.

WENDELL L. BEVAN/JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

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